

Filed for intro on 05/08/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 976
By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the men's basketball team of Bethel College on their outstanding 2001-2002 season.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletes and teams who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the men's basketball team of Bethel College is deserving of our admiration and praise; during their remarkable 2001-02 season, the Wildcats enjoyed an outstanding campaign and earned the first bid to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II National Championship Tournament in school history; and

WHEREAS, the Wildcats surpassed all expectations, except their own, by compiling an impressive record of twenty-four wins against only eleven losses, including a 5-3 record in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; and

WHEREAS, the team's record was a remarkable improvement over the 8-26 campaign of the previous season and a testament to their dedication and mental fortitude; and

HJR0976

01476384

WHEREAS, as the third seed in the NAIA East Independent Regional Tournament, they won two games to reach the championship game and then defeated top-seeded Indiana University Southeast on the Grenadiers' home floor to earn the privilege of competing in the National Championship Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in Point Lookout, Missouri, the Wildcats earned the respect of their competition by defeating Western Baptist 71-69 in the opening round before falling in the round of sixteen to a powerful squad from Robert Morris College that would advance to the National Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, the men of Bethel achieved unparalleled success through hard work and tremendous dedication that allowed them to utilize their vast individual talents; they worked together as a team to attain their common goals, and that teamwork presented an opportunity for their individual talents to shine; and

WHEREAS, Matt Rooks was named Honorable Mention All-American for the second consecutive year, and Myron McCrary was named Most Valuable Player in the Regional Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the most impressive honor won by any Bethel College basketball player was the right to represent the school in the National Championship Tournament; the men who earned that honor were: Seniors Patrick Kince, Rian Puckett, Matt Rooks, Steve Smith, and Eric Schwartz; Juniors Paul Matthews and Derrick Scales; Sophomores Kade Bosheers, Blake Compton, Kevin Hartwell, David Lester, Myron McCrary, Kwame Smith, and Jason Winfrey; and Freshman Drew Woods; and

WHEREAS, these talented athletes achieved the utmost success as a result of the astute leadership of their coaches, who laid the foundation for this memorable season by sharing their great love and knowledge of basketball with the players; the Wildcats were guided by Head Coach Jeff Britt with the help of Assistant Coach Mark Hester and Graduate Assistant Coach Drew Church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Prosser, President of Bethel College, and Larry Eddings, Athletic Director, greatly contributed to the basketball team's success by providing their fullest support to the program; and

WHEREAS, the basketball players of Bethel College epitomize all that is good in the ideal collegiate student-athlete; they have achieved notable success on the basketball court while displaying impeccable character both inside and outside of the gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, the stalwart dedication, strong work ethic, and vast talent displayed by these student-athletes have not only led to a championship season, but also surely bode well for their future success; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Bethel Wildcats for their success on the basketball court and for serving as excellent examples of the tremendous quality of the young men of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we congratulate the Wildcats of Bethel College on their outstanding season, join with the school's administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans in celebrating the school's first berth in the NAIA Division II National Championship Tournament, and wish them every continued success, both on and off the basketball court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.